

**ELK TOWNSHIP
COMMITTEE WORK SESSION MINUTES
January 15, 2019**

The work session of the Elk Township Committee was held on the above date in the Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Sammons at 7:05PM.

The Open Public Meeting Notice was read.
The Salute to the Flag was recited.

ROLL CALL: Present were: Mr. Hollywood, Mrs. Nicholson, Mayor Sammons, Mr. Considine, CFO, and Mrs. Pine, Township Clerk. Mr. Bitgood, Engineer arrived at 7:11PM and Mr. Rambo arrived at 7:16PM.

Approval of minutes of December 27, 2018 Close Out and January 3, 2019 Reorganization Meetings
Motion by Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. Hollywood to approve the minutes of the December 27, 2018 Close Out meeting and January 3, 2019 Reorganization meeting, all were in favor motion carried.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Motion by Mr. Nicholson to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Hollywood, all were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Sammons asked if anyone had any questions on agenda items to come forward at this time.
No one came forward.

Motion by Mr. Hollywood to close the public portion, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, all were in favor, motion carried.

RESOLUTION:

R-28-2019 – To Turn Over Money from the Tax Sale Premium and Tax Sale Redemption Accounts

Motion by Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. Hollywood to adopt and approve said Resolution, upon roll call motion carried.

Roll Call:	Mr. Hollywood	Yes
	Mrs. Nicholson	Yes
	Mayor Sammons	Yes

R-29-2019 – To Refund Money due to Laverne Russell for an Overpayment of Taxes

Motion by Mr. Hollywood, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson to adopt and approve said Resolution, upon roll call motion carried.

Roll Call:	Mr. Hollywood	Yes
	Mrs. Nicholson	Yes
	Mayor Sammons	Yes

R-30-2019 – Authorizing the Execution of a Commodity Resale Agreement with the County of Gloucester

Motion by Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. Hollywood to adopt and approve said Resolution, upon roll call motion carried.

Roll Call:	Mr. Hollywood	Yes
	Mrs. Nicholson	Yes
	Mayor Sammons	Yes

R-31-2019 – Authorizing 2018 Reserve Budget Transfers

Motion by Mr. Hollywood, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson to adopt and approve said Resolution, upon roll call motion carried.

Roll Call:	Mr. Hollywood	Yes
	Mrs. Nicholson	Yes
	Mayor Sammons	Yes

R-32-2019 – Amending R-21-2019- Committee Appointments (Economic Development Committee)
Motion by Mr. Hollywood, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson to adopt and approve said Resolution, all were in favor, motion carried.

R-33-2019 – Amending R-22-2019- Mayoral Appointments (Environmental Commission)
Motion by Mrs. Nicholson, seconded by Mr. Hollywood to adopt and approve said Resolution, all were in favor, motion carried.

R-34-2019 – Appointing Detective Joseph Pierson as the Municipal Humane Law Enforcement Officer for the Township of Elk
Motion by Mr. Hollywood, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson to adopt and approve said Resolution, upon roll call motion carried.

Roll Call:	Mr. Hollywood	Yes
	Mrs. Nicholson	Yes
	Mayor Sammons	Yes

Mr. Bitgood arrived at this time, 7:11PM.

TOPICS:

There is an ongoing drainage issue on Arch Street. There are multiple properties that have basement sump pumps discharging onto Arch St. They are smaller low lying lots and have septic and wells. The north end of the street is undeveloped or a paper street, which is higher ground than the lots on Arch St. The township installed recharge inlets when the road was resurfaced in 2008. That worked for a while, but there is so much water it cannot keep up. There is a chance that with the water table being so high, they may not be able to keep up. In 2014, Mr. Bitgood was asked to prepare various options for a possible solution. The first option is to pump the water north onto the undeveloped portion of the street. This would require owners to tie into a force main. The owners might need to upgrade their current pumps to prevent back flow on smaller pumps.

Another option is pump the water south across Harrison Ave. to a vacant lot that is owned by the township. Either option, test pits will be needed to confirm what the seasonal high water table level is and what the percolation rate could be, so the system can be sized accordingly and if it will actually work.

There was another option of expanding the current system. Mr. Bitgood does not think this will work since the water does not go away.

Mr. Rambo arrived at this time, 7:16PM.

Mr. Hollywood went out to the site and saw where one resident had 3 pumps going nonstop. He feels that possibly they need to fill in their basement. He was looking at the ordinance to see if there was a law against pumping into the street. The house at 211 Buck Road has their septic in the rear and it is under 6 inches of water.

Mrs. Nicholson asked if the county can come out and inspect the septic. She further asked if there is any funding available for this type of situation.

Mr. Bitgood stated he reached out to the NJDEP to see if there are any funds available from the flood reduction program. He was told there is no funding available.

Mr. Bitgood mentioned the NJDOT was encouraging small drainage correction and improvements this year under the Local Aid Infrastructure Fund Project (LAIF). Stanger Ave is one of those projects.

Mayor Sammons asked is this is compromising the street.

A complaint has been received from the resident at 211 Buck Road and the resident at 505 Arch Street, both saying something needs to be done.

The resident who resides at 507 Arch Street, sued the builder and stated the court asked if they could acquire the land behind their property on Spruce Street. She also mentioned putting in a French drain around the house.

Mr. Hollywood stated he understands if it something to do with the township road ways and storm runoff, but if is something the builder did and the resident sued the builder then the taxpayers should not be paying to correct something the builder created.

Mr. Bitgood suggested possibly obtaining an easement for the property behind 507 Arch Street and pump to the property on Spruce Street.

Mayor Sammons will reach out to Ms. Bey to inquire about the settlement agreement and see if she attempted to reach out to the property owner behind her.

Mayor Sammons will speak with Mr. Bitgood about the issue next week.

Mr. Bitgood spoke with another resident at 185 Douglass that is having a similar problem. Mr. Bitgood inspected and the issue was not caused by the recent paving. The resident asked if he could pump the water further down the unimproved road. Mr. Bitgood feels it can be done on a trial basis and will evaluate the situation closely to make sure it does not create a problem for other residents in the area.

Mrs. Nicholson feels the water on Arch Street should be pumped to a township owned property.

Mr. Bitgood's first option is to pump the water north to the un-improved portion of Arch Street. But with any option there is the issue of maintenance.

Mrs. Nicholson asked when the last time the drains were cleaned out. It was not known when they were cleaned out last. Mr. Bitgood stated they do need to be cleaned, however it cannot be done at this time.

Mrs. Nicholson would like Mr. Bitgood to update his recommendations and thinks we need to reach out to the property owner on Spruce Street.

Mr. Bitgood stated that property may not perk and may not solve the problem.

Old Harrison Township will be celebrating their 175th Anniversary in 2019. Elk Township and South Harrison Township were part of Old Harrison. Harrison Twp. Committee Jeff Jacques was present to invite committee to the celebration they will be having in Harrison Township.

The big day for Harrison Township will be May 4, 2019. They would like Elk Township to participate in any way possible. They will be having a parade, plenty of activities and ending with fireworks. If Elk has a special day, Harrison would be happy to help and participate in our day. Mark Gravinese, Harrison Township Administrator was also present. He is putting the events together. They are inviting committee to participate in any way they would like. They will have events happening in the township all year. Mr. Jacques will email committee the dates of meetings.

GLOUCESTER COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE Leona Mather was present to assist with any questions or concerns for the county.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Motion by Mr. Hollywood to open the meeting to the public, seconded by Mrs. Nicholson, all were in favor, motion carried.

Mayor Sammons asked if anyone had any questions or comments or an issue they would like to bring to the township committees attention to come forward at this time.

No one came forward.

Motion by Mrs. Nicholson to close the public portion, seconded by Mr. Hollywood, all were in favor, motion carried.

PAY BILLS:

Motion by Mr. Hollywood to Pay the Bills, seconded by Mr. Rambo, upon roll call motion was carried.

Roll Call:	Mr. Rambo	Yes
	Mrs. Nicholson	Yes
	Mr. Rambo	Yes
	Mayor Sammons	Yes

Motion by Mrs. Nicholson to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hollywood, all were in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debora R. Pine, RMC, CMC
Township Clerk